

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Revise page 12, line 17- page 14, line 7 to read as follows:

– Fig. 2 is a schematically illustrated perspective view which shows one example of the arrangement of the connection thread in the three dimensionally knitted base material of the present invention.. The upper ground structure is connected with the lower ground structure by arranging, on the knitting device, the portions having the connection thread and the portions not having the connection thread, with a predetermined distance therebetween, in the well wale direction and/or the course direction of the knitted base material, as shown in Fig. 2. By cutting the three dimensionally knitted base material at the portions not having the connection thread at the time of cutting, the amount of cutting debris generated at the time of cutting can be suppressed.

The portion not having the connection thread may be located in both the well wale direction and the curse direction, or may be located only in one of these directions of the three dimensionally knitted base material. In short, the portion not having the connection thread may be provided in any suitable manner, according to the condition in which the three dimensionally knitted base material is actually used.

Further, at the time of connecting the connection thread to the upper ground structure and the lower ground structure by arranging the connection thread in the ground structures in the well wale direction and/or the course direction with a predetermined distance therebetween, as shown in Fig. 2, by knitting the connection thread into the same ground structure again (without knitting the connection thread into

the opposite ground structure) at a predetermined interval, the portions having the connection thread and the portions not having the connection thread can be alternately produced. The interval between the portions having the connection thread and the portions not having the connection thread can be set at any suitable distance. In addition, the thickness of the three dimensionally knitted structure, the density of the thread, and the type of the thread which to be used can be changed according to the conditions in which the three dimensionally knitted base material is actually used. Accordingly, the three dimensionally knitted structure of the present invention can be flexibly modified to different sizes. The structure shown in Fig. 3 is simply one example, and needless to say, the present invention is not restricted to this particular example. –.